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gentlemen well acquainted with parts of the region recently explored, had, as well as himself, a hope that Livingstone might be still alive. Although it was a ray of hope only, they would, he was sure, agree with him that an expedition should be sent out to clear up this painful question. Until that was done, he (the President) should remain in doubt as to the death of the great explorer.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

(Printed by order of Council.)

1. *Notes on Rangoon.*

[Extract of a Letter from Mr. ALEXANDER BROWN to Mr. JOHN FLEMING, dated Rangoon, 15th Feb., 1867.]

"It would appear that Moulmein has been going down the hill in importance, or at least that Rangoon is so fast advancing in prosperity and importance that Moulmein has already become quite subsidiary to it. The position and accessories of the two ports quite explain this. Rangoon is on a magnificent river, with no difficulties of navigation, communicating direct with the frontier of British Burmah, and thence with the capital and most important provinces of Burmah Proper. It is the outlet, in fact, of the whole country: its rise has been most remarkable. In 1852 it was nothing, and now it is a large and flourishing city with 60,000 to 70,000 inhabitants, and is still steadily extending. It is the head-quarters of the rice-trade (Bassein being so near, only some two or three days' journey through the creeks, can easily be worked as a subsidiary to it), and must be the outlet of all the produce of Burmah Proper, when it comes in course of time to be developed. At present there is a temporary check to the prosperity of Burmah generally, owing to the unsatisfactory state of matters in the King's territory (or Burmah Proper). His oppressions, extortions, and cruelties, have reached such a point as thoroughly to incense the people against him. There has already been a serious rebellion, and though it has been for the time quelled, yet the universal opinion is that things are rapidly working up towards another and more serious outbreak; and it seems more than probable that ere long our interference, and probably the annexation of the whole country, may become an imperative necessity. It would appear that the Burmese would hail such a result with delight, as they can contrast the state of matters in British Burmah with that in Upper Burmah. They are a most intelligent race of people, and what little one sees of them on a short visit like mine, impresses one most favourably with them in contrast with the natives of India. Though Bhoodists, they seem utterly without the prejudices, or at least the narrowness of mind, of our natives. They have a complete national system of education, every boy being obliged by their law to reside for three years in a kyoung, or religious house, where they serve the poonghies or priests, and are educated by them in reading, writing, and the elements of arithmetic, as well as in religious knowledge. The system is a very wise one. The priests, of whom there are vast numbers, live in the kyoungs; they are celibates, and I believe, as a rule, very chaste. They never handle money, and are supposed never to see it. Each morning they, and the boys in their charge, go round the village, and at each house get a portion of rice and other food ready cooked, on which they and the boys live.

The boys are thus boarded for three years, free of direct cost to their parents, at the expense of the whole community, and both acquire habits of restraint and submission to authority, which could not possibly be the case at the same age at home, and obtain a simple vernacular education sufficient to carry them through life. The females are entirely uneducated, and it is said to be as hard to find a woman who can read or write in Burmah, as a man who cannot do both. Nevertheless the women seem to be fitted by nature for keeping their own place in society. They are excellent merchants, and they say a great many of the bargains for rice and other produce are effected by them. They can keep their husbands in order, and slipper them when they misbehave; a curious example of which I saw in passing through a village not far from Moulmein. A Burmese girl, who lived with a Mahomedan from India as his wife (having cause to be jealous), dragged him out into the street, seized him by the turban, took it off, stripped him of what money he had, gave him a good beating with her fists and her slippers, proclaiming most vociferously his fault to all the bystanders, not one of whom interfered; the miserable wretch taking it all as if it were his due. I was told such scenes were not uncommon.

"The Burmese have many of the characteristics of the Chinese, are ingenious and enterprising, though lazy. They have much independence of spirit, and nearly all the menial labour in British Burmah is performed by Coolies from India. Altogether they are a race well calculated, under good government, to make far more of a country than ever the Hindoos could; and were this only secured to Upper Burmah, there must be a great future before the country, and Rangoon could not fail rapidly to become a place of the utmost importance.

"Moulmein, on the other hand, has many drawbacks; the approach to the port is very difficult and dangerous. The River Salween, though a splendid stream, is unnavigable beyond about a hundred miles, on account of a serious barrier of rapids. There is little or no rice-trade, and nothing, in fact, to depend upon but the teak-timber trade. Owing to the extremely depressed state of matters with regard to teak, the place is for the present almost dead, and merchants, who formerly used to consider it their head-quarters, have now merely a subsidiary agency there."

2. *Exploration of the Endeavour River, Cape York Peninsula, Australia.* By JOHN JARDINE, Esq., Police Magistrate, Somerset, Cape York.

ON the morning of 27th September, 1865, accompanied by my son and three of the officers of H.M.S.S. *Salamander*, having by the courtesy of Acting-Commander Yonge been furnished with a boat and crew, I entered the Endeavour River, and proceeded with the tide for 3 miles, where the mangroves which cover the low country round the mouth cease, and the river takes a decided form, flowing in a width of 400 yards, between moderately high banks of a reddish clay, overlaid by a layer of light vegetable mould. The country on either side lightly timbered with bloodwood, Moreton Bay ash, &c.

Following the course upwards for about 15 miles further, the description of the river as given in the Admiralty chart was found to be correct in all respects, with the exception that fresh water was not met with till the head of the tide was reached—a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles further than the survey goes. This may readily be accounted for by the unusual dryness of the season, evidences of which were everywhere visible. At this last point the channel becomes very narrow, with a depth of water of about 5 feet, and it terminates abruptly in a small basin below a bar of slate rock.

To this point the general course of the river was N.E. by N., when it turns to N. by W., and continues in that direction to a remarkable gap in the Main Coast Range in which the river appears to take its rise. The range here is